



PROPOSED RULE MAKING
(RCW 34.05.320)

CR-102 (7/22/01)
Do NOT use for expedited
rule making

Agency: Public Disclosure Commission

- ☒ Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 04-05-070 & 04-01-147 ; or
☐ Expedited Rule Making -- Proposed notice was filed as WSR _____; or
☐ Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4).

- ☒ Original Notice
☐ Supplemental Notice
to WSR _____
☐ Continuance of WSR _____

(a) Title of rule: (Describe Subject) Title 390 WAC - Rules relating to sample ballots and slate cards (WAC 390-17-030); status of citizen complaints (WAC 390-37-030); exemptions from political advertising (WAC 390-18-030); explanation and reporting of in-kind contributions (WAC 390-16-207); promise or promise to pay (WAC 390-05-295); personal use of contributions (WAC 390-16-238); citizen action letters (WAC 390-37-041); and PDC regular meetings (WAC 390-12-010).

Purpose: To clarify reporting requirements for candidates and political committees, conform to recent case law and update Commission's regular meeting schedule.
Other identifying information: None.

(b) Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 42.17.370

Statute being implemented: 42.17 RCW

(c) Summary: The proposed amendment to WAC 390-17-030 conforms to updated statute by removing the requirement that federal political committees file C-5 reports if they are currently filing reports with the Federal Election Commission. The proposed amendment to WAC 390-37-030 reinstates section (3) as a result of recent case law. The proposed amendment to WAC 390-37-041 removes reference to the tolling language and conforms to recent case law. The proposed amendment to WAC 390-18-030 exempts political tickers from the "top five contributor" requirement. The proposed amendment to WAC 390-16-207 indicates that in-kind contributions are to be treated the same as cash contributions. A new rule, WAC 390-05-295, defines promise or promise to pay. The proposed amendment to WAC 390-16-238 further defines personal use. The proposed amendment to WAC 390-12-010 updates the location and schedule of regular meetings.

Reasons supporting proposal: The proposed amendments and new rule will clarify the statutory requirements under chapter 42.17 RCW and provide guidance to those entities required to disclose campaign contributions and expenditures.

(d) Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for:

Office Location

Telephone

1. Drafting..... Susan Harris

711 Capitol Way, Room 206, Olympia

(360) 753-1981

2. Implementation.... Susan Harris

711 Capitol Way, Room 206, Olympia

(360) 753-1981

3. Enforcement..... Phil Stutzman

711 Capitol Way, Room 206, Olympia

(360) 664-8853

(e) Name of proponent (person or organization): Public Disclosure Commission

- ☐ Private
☐ Public
☒ Governmental

(f) Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement and fiscal matters:
None

(g) Is rule necessary because of:

Federal Law?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, ATTACH COPY OF TEXT

Federal Court Decision?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Citation:

State Court Decision?

☐ Yes

☒ No

(h) HEARING LOCATION:

Commission Meeting Room
Evergreen Plaza Building
711 Capitol Way, Room 206
Olympia, Washington

Submit written comments to:

Susan Harris (sharris@pdc.wa.gov)
Public Disclosure Commission
PO Box 40908
Olympia WA 98504-0908
FAX (360) 753-1112 By (date) May 20, 2004

Date: May 27, 2004 Time: 9:00 a.m.

DATE OF INTENDED ADOPTION: May 27, 2004

Assistance for persons with disabilities: Contact
Ruthann Bryant by May 13, 2004

TDD () _____ or (360) 753-1111

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)

Susan Harris

SIGNATURE

Susan Harris

Assistant Director

4-6-04

CODE REVISER USE ONLY

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

APR 6 2004

TIME 2:18 P.M.
WSR 04-08-086

(j) Short explanation of rule, its purpose, and anticipated effects:
See Summary and Reasons supporting proposal above.

Does proposal change existing rules? ☒ YES ☐ NO

If yes, describe changes:

(k) Has a small business economic impact statement been prepared under chapter 19.85 RCW?

☐ Yes. Attach copy of small business economic impact statement.
A copy of the statement may be obtained by writing to:

telephoning: ()

faxing: ()

☒ No. Explain why no statement was prepared.
The implementation of these rules has minimal impact on small businesses.

(l) Does RCW 34.05.328 apply to this rule adoption? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Please explain: The PDC is not an agency listed in subsection (5)(a)(i) of section 201. Further, the PDC does not voluntarily make section 201 applicable to this rule adoption pursuant to subsection (5)(a)(i) of section 201, and, to date, JARRC has not made section 201 application to this rule adoption.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 02-12-007, filed 5/23/02, effective 6/23/02)

WAC 390-17-030 Sample ballots and slate cards. (1) Intent. The commission finds that, under certain conditions, expenditures for slate cards and other candidate listings fall within the scope of RCW 42.17.640 (14)(a) and are, therefore, exempt from contribution limits and eligible for payment with a bona fide political party's exempt funds. Slate cards and other candidate listings remain reportable under chapter 42.17 RCW and subject to the political advertising provisions of the law.

The purpose of this exemption from the contribution limits is to allow political parties and other sponsors to tell the general public which candidates they support. The exemption is not intended as a device to circumvent the contribution limits and full reporting requirements by undertaking any degree of significant campaigning on behalf of candidates.

(2) For purposes of RCW 42.17.640 (14)(a), **"sample ballots"** means slate cards, or other candidate listings, whether written or oral, that satisfy the qualifying criteria specified in subsection (10) of this section.

(3) Sample ballots constitute political advertising for a slate or list of candidates and must be properly identified and otherwise in compliance with the political advertising provisions, RCW 42.17.505 through 42.17.550.

(4)(a) **A bona fide political party** may use contributions it receives pursuant to RCW 42.17.640(14) to produce and distribute sample ballots.

(b) Expenditures for sample ballots do not count against a bona fide political party's contribution limit to the candidates listed on the sample ballot. Further, when reporting sample ballot expenditures, a bona fide political party is not required to attribute a portion of the expenditure to each of the candidates listed on the sample ballot, but the names of the candidates must be reported along with the other information required by chapter 42.17 RCW and chapter 390-17 WAC.

(5) **Any person**, as defined by RCW 42.17.020, who makes an expenditure for sample ballots has made an expenditure that does not count against that person's contribution limit to the candidates listed.

(6) **An in-state political committee**, when disclosing expenditures for sample ballots as part of its C-4 report, is not required to attribute a portion of the expenditure to the candidates listed on the sample ballot, but the names of the candidates and their respective party affiliations must be reported along with other information required by chapter 42.17 RCW and chapter 390-17 WAC.

(7) **An out-of-state ((or federal)) committee**, when disclosing expenditures for sample ballots on a C-5 report, is not required to allocate a portion of the expenditure to the candidates listed on the sample ballot, but must report that an expenditure for sample ballots was made, the name and address of the person to whom the expenditure was made, the full amount of the expenditure, and the name, office sought and party affiliation of each candidate listed on the sample ballot. The report is due ((within ten days of the date the sample ballot is received by recipients)) no later than the 20th day of the month following the month in which the expenditure was made.

(8) If a **lobbyist or lobbyist employer** makes expenditures for sample ballots, those expenditures are required to be reported in detail on the lobbyist's monthly L-2 report. Itemization of these expenditures must include the names and respective party affiliations of the candidates listed on the sample ballot, but no portion of the expenditure need be allocated to individual candidates listed on the sample ballot.

(9) **The candidates listed on a sample ballot** are not required to report any portion of the expenditure as an in-kind contribution to their campaigns.

(10) **Qualifying criteria for sample ballots, slate cards and other candidate listings.** In order not to count against a person's contribution limit to the candidates listed on a sample ballot and, in the case of a bona fide political party, in order to be eligible for payment with contributions received pursuant to RCW 42.17.640(14), a sample ballot must satisfy all of the criteria in (a) through (d) of this subsection.

(a) The sample ballot must list the names of at least three candidates for election to public office in Washington state and be distributed in a geographical area where voters are eligible to vote for at least three candidates listed. The candidate listing may include any combination of three or more candidates, whether the candidates are seeking federal, state or local office in Washington.

(b) The sample ballot must not be distributed through public political advertising; for example, through broadcast media, newspapers, magazines, billboards or the like. The sample ballot may be distributed through direct mail, telephone, electronic mail, Web sites, electronic bulletin boards, electronic billboards or personal delivery by volunteers.

(c) The content of a sample ballot is limited to:

- The identification of each candidate (pictures may be used);
- The office or position currently held;
- The office sought;
- Party affiliation; and
- Information about voting hours and locations.

Therefore, the sample ballot must exclude any additional biographical data on candidates and their positions on issues as well as statements about the sponsor's philosophy, goals or accomplishments. The list must also exclude any statements, check marks or other indications showing support of or opposition to

ballot propositions.

(d) The sample ballot is a stand-alone political advertisement. It must not be a portion of a more comprehensive message or combined in the same mailing or packet with any other information, including get-out-the-vote material, candidate brochures, or statements about the sponsor's philosophy, goals or accomplishments. On Web sites, electronic bulletin boards or electronic billboards, the sample ballot must be a separate document.